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REPORT

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES • SPRING 1990

Animal Protection in Louisiana Makes Gains

Animal activists gathered on January 7 at a day-long workshop in New Orleans to hear GSRO Program Coordinator James Noe speak on the search for and seizure of abused animals. Afterwards, attendees were given an opportunity to test their knowledge by answering hypothetical questions relating to search-and-seizure situations. Susan Kreston, assistant district attorney for Baton Rouge Parish, spoke on the subject of case preparation and presentation to proper authorities.

Later in the week, Noe toured the southwestern portion of the state with Jeff Dorson of Legislation in Support of Animals (LISA). Dorson has a great deal of experience investigating smaller municipal shelters in the state. The HSUS is very concerned about the state of Louisiana's shelters, as many of the shelters are

largely inadequate, with animals kept in crowded, unventilated conditions and eventually killed by being shot or inhaling hot, unfiltered carbon monoxide gas generated by a fast-idling engine.

The Louisiana legislature has recently passed a law setting minimum operating standards for animal shelters. However, this toothless law was left as an optional statute—only enforceable if individual parishes wished to comply with its guidelines.

The HSUS and LISA are interested in compiling further information about other inadequate shelter conditions in Louisiana. You can help by visiting your local shelter and advising us of your findings. Call James Noe at the GSRO headquarters or Jeff Dorson at (504) 888-1148. We plan eventually to introduce legislation calling for mandatory standards for all state shelters. ■



The pipe extending from the front of this carbon-monoxide chamber connects to the tailpipe of a fast-idling engine, killing an animal with uncooled, unfiltered gas.

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Bullet-Wound Research Put on Hold

Last August, the GSRO sent Action Alerts to our more than 5,000 Louisiana constituents asking for help in stopping ballistics (bullet wound) research on cats being conducted at Louisiana State University (LSU). In a contractual agreement with the U.S. Army, LSU began this research in 1983 to gather data that would ostensibly be useful in returning brain-injured soldiers to active duty.

Since the research began, more than 700 cats have been shot in the head. If they survive, the animals are then studied and observed by technicians.

This program originally was designed to last through 1991 at a cost of \$2.1 million to the taxpayer.

Due to the outcry from HSUS members and the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM), these cat-shooting experiments have been temporarily suspended. The U.S. General Accounting Office is currently reviewing the validity of the program.

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These juvenile Ridley sea turtles face many dangers, but the nets of shrimpers should no longer be a threat as regulations requiring the use of TEDs are enforced.

Sea Turtles Gain Protection—Use of TEDs Enforced

The endangered Ridley sea turtle has finally gained nationwide protection. Gulf Coast shrimpers, on the other hand, claim they themselves are now the endangered species, alleging that the required use of turtle-excluder devices (TEDs) so interferes with their catch that their continued economic survival is threatened.

Initial enforcement of the new regulations fell upon the National Marine Fisheries (NMF), a federal department of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration. However, the department is not adequately equipped with the boats or manpower to handle such an endeavor, so the burden actually falls on the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), which plans to incorporate enforcement of TED regulations along with their daily boater-safety and drug-interdiction tasks.

Should USCG agents find a violator, they will immediately issue a citation and notify the NMF, which will review each case and determine appropriate fines. First-time offenders will be fined between \$8,000–\$12,000. Second-time offenders can be fined \$12,000 and upwards and possibly serve jail time. Habitual violators can be fined and jailed and their vessels permanently confiscated.

Shrimpers are required to have TEDs installed and functional from March 1 through November 30, their primary trawling season. Shrimpers may not trawl during June or the first two weeks of July, allowing shrimp an undisturbed breeding season. ■



A Coast Guard agent checks a shrimp net to make certain a turtle-excluder device is in place as required.

Change Needed in TPWD's Administration

Last summer, the GSRO circulated petitions to our Texas members that urged the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to stop sanctioned hunting on state parks and wildlife refuges, a clear miscarriage of the original intent and purpose of the park system. The TPWD's objectionable hunting policy is evidently only the tip of the iceberg.

In a recent article published by *Texas Monthly*, investigative reporters disclosed that the TPWD's nine commissioners, appointed by the governor himself, are typically sport-hunting businessmen or political contributors. Rarely are environmentalists or conservationists asked to serve on the commission.

The *Texas Monthly* article also reported that, last year, the number of citations issued by the TPWD's 2,600 employees for wildlife violations averaged only two tickets per week. Late in 1989, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conducted the biggest raid on wildlife hunting violations in the state's history, but the TPWD played no part whatsoever in the operation.

The TPWD also appears reluctant to expand the parks system. In 1967, the Texas legislature authorized \$75 million in bonds for land acquisition and development. In 23 years, only \$45 million of the appropriated funds have been spent.

We urge you to write your state representative calling for an ethical change in the TPWD's administration and policies. ■

Adopt-A-Teacher Workshops

The GSRO is offering free Adopt-A-Teacher workshops that can be scheduled for any Saturday in March or April in our Corpus Christi, Tex., headquarters office.

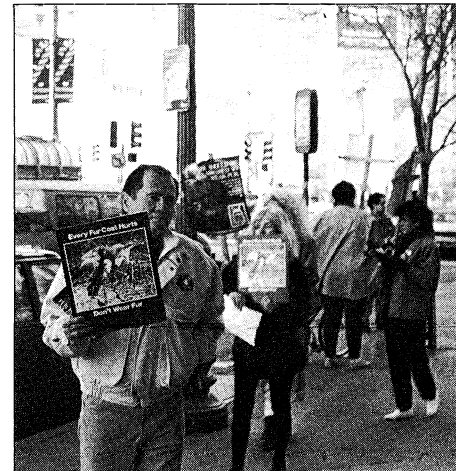
The GSRO workshop will assist you in integrating the Adopt-A-Teacher program into schools, obtaining corporate or individual sponsors, and obtaining grants for large scale endeavors. For further information, call Dorothy Weller at the GSRO. ■

“Shame of Fur” Campaign Targets Gulf States

On November 24, “Fur-Free Friday,” the Volunteers for Animal Welfare staged an anti-fur demonstration at one of Oklahoma City's largest shopping malls. As many as 50 people joined the protest. Nearly 15 “Shame of Fur” billboards were posted throughout the city, educating thousands of people of the cruelty inflicted upon fur-producing animals.

On January 13, The HSUS, in cooperation with the Legislation in Support of Animals (LISA), sponsored an anti-fur demonstration in downtown New Orleans. More than 40 animal protectionists participated in the event, which drew the attention of hundreds of onlookers and passersby. The event was covered by local television news broadcasts and newspapers throughout the New Orleans area and was part of The HSUS's “Shame of Fur” campaign targeting 17 major cities across the nation.

Through billboards, public service announcements, and peaceful demonstrations such as these, The HSUS hopes to educate potential fur buyers of the cruelties involved in all fur production, be it ranched fur or trapped. Over the past year, The HSUS made headlines and rallied hundreds of thousands of people to the anti-fur cause. The result is a marked increase in



More than 40 people participated in anti-fur protests in New Orleans.

public opposition to fur garments.

Recent news accounts indicate the fur industry is suffering as a result of greater compassion for animals and understanding of the fur trade on the part of the public. (The fur industry blames the recent warm winters and general economic slowdown for the reduction in sales.)

The HSUS has vowed, with the help of local groups like LISA, to continue the assault on the fur industry until it no longer exists. ■



The HSUS “Shame of Fur” campaign is targeting 17 major cities nationwide, using billboards, such as this one in New Orleans, to educate potential fur buyers.

AROUND THE REGION

■ **ARKANSAS**—The Humane Society of Pulaski County in Little Rock urges its members to write their state legislators insisting the state anti-cruelty statute be clarified, thus enabling stricter enforcement. This follows an unsuccessful attempt to stop a diving-mule act in Little Rock.

■ **TEXAS**—Officials for the Wilbarger Humane Society in Vernon recently seized a beaten, water-soaked puppy from its owners. The owners claimed that the severe abrasions about the animal's head and chin must have occurred when it was being taught how to walk on a leash. Criminal charges are pending.

The Brazos Animal Shelter, serving Bryan and College Station, recently launched a pet-licensing campaign, using billboards and radio and television announcements, to continually educate and remind the constantly changing population of Texas A&M University students of the need to keep current tags on their pets.

An El Palo radio station canceled its ill-conceived satirical promotion called the “Amigo Cat Drop” after the GSRO and the Animal Alliance Society of El Paso expressed outrage over this obviously harmful message. Originally meant to broadcast the various cruel methods of disposing of cats, this week-long program would have concluded with a fictitious cat drop over Arizona. ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

■ **March 30**—The GSRO, with the Louisiana SPCA, is sponsoring the “Humane Solutions to Problems with Urban Wildlife” workshop in New Orleans, La. This seminar provides information on methods of resolving problems created by wildlife in the urban environment. Contact the GSRO for more information.

■ **April 22**—Celebrate Earth Day's 20th anniversary. Local and regional organizations are hosting many different activities to promote a global environmental awareness. For activities in your area, write: Earth Day 1990, PO Box AA, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 95309; (415) 321-1990. ■

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